

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01846 192103Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 353

UNCLAS SANT DOMINGO 1846

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, DR
SUBJECT: LISTIN DIARIO COMMENTS ON TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

TEXT OF EDITORIAL, APRIL 19, IN PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, LISTIN DIARIO,
REFERRING TO RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INTEREST IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BY
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (REPORTED SEPTEL) FOLLOWS IN INFORMAL
TRANSLATION:

QUOTE: THE REQUESTS MADE BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN ITS
LETTER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF VARIOUS
SICK PRISONERS HAD ALREADY BEEN SATISFIED BEFORE THE CHIEF
EXECUTIVE RECEIVED THE LETTER, THROUGH EFFORTS OF THE
FAMILIES OF THE DETAINED. ACTUALLY, THE NUMBER OF SO-CALLED
POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS DECLINED TO A MINIMAL LEVEL IN THE
COUNTRY DUE TO DECISIONS OF THE COURTS AND THE EXERCISE BY
THE PRESIDENT OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PARDON POWERS. IT IS OUR
CONVICTION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING RESPECTED IN OUR COUNTRY
MUCH MORE AMPLY THAN IN VERY MANY OTHER NATIONS. WE DO WISH
TO ASK, AND IN THIS WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH AMNESTY, THAT
THE SO-CALLED POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN
TO PRISONS IN THE (HAITIAN) FRONTIER REGION BE TRANSFERRED
TO LA VICTORIA (PRISON IN SANTO DOMINGO). THIS
FOR ONE MAIN REASON: FAMILIES OF THESE PRISONERS LIVE
IN THE CAPITAL AND THE VISITS OF THESE FAMILY MEMBERS
BECOME VERY DIFFICULT AND COSTLY. THE ATTENTIONS OF
FAMILY ARE THOSE WHICH, IN OUR COUNTRY, SWEETEN THE
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RIGORS OF PRISON. THE FAMILIES TAKE THEM CLOTHING AND
FOOD AND ARE AWARE OF THEIR NEEDS AND STATE OF HEALTH.
FAMILY VISITS ARE THEMSELVES A GREAT SPIRITUAL TONIC.
WE BELIEVE THAT IF THESE PRISONERS ARE BROUGHT TO THE
CAPITAL A VERY HUMANITARIAN STEP WILL HAVE BEEN TAKEN,
IN TUNE WITH THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT
EXERCISING ITS POWER OF PARDON. END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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